

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 18, 2007. Claims 1, 4, 7 to 9, 26 and 27 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8 and 9 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 9, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,566,252 (Miyaza) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,586,242 (McQueen). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns generating a reproduced image based on an image read by a reading unit or step where the type of font to be used in the reproduced image can be a type selected by an operator. According to the present invention, it is thus possible to generate the image by properly combining a plurality of different character gaps without changing the size of the generated character.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus which includes a reading unit constructed to read an image in an original; a character recognizing unit constructed to recognize a character in the image read by the reading unit and to output a character code as a result of recognition; a storing unit constructed to store a character font; a readout unit constructed to read the character font from the storing unit based on the character code output by the character recognizing unit; a detecting unit constructed to detect first character size concerning the character in the image read by the reading unit; a setting unit constructed to set a magnification ratio based on an instruction by an operator; a determining unit constructed to determine second character size based on the first character size and the

magnification ratio; a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in the storing unit based on an instruction by the operator; and a generating unit constructed to generate a reproduced image, which includes characters having the second character size, based on the character font, the type of which is selected by the selecting unit. The generating unit generates the reproduced image by combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps so that the width of the reproduced image corresponds to the width of the image read by the reading unit which is multiplied by the magnification ratio.

Applicant submits that Miyaza and McQueen, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest detecting a character size (first character size) in a read image, and determining a second character size based on a magnification ratio set based on an instruction by an operator. Further, Miyaza and McQueen, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest reproducing an image including characters of the second character size based on a font read out of a storing unit, based on a character code as a result of recognition of a character recognizing unit (step), and selecting a type of the font read out of the storing unit based on an instruction by the operator.

In contrast, Miyaza, discloses a character recognizing unit is used to detect whether or not a character exists in a read image, but is not used to output a character code as in the image processing apparatus of Claim 1. Further, Miyaza does not disclose or suggest a selecting unit constructed to select a type of the character font stored in said storing unit based on an instruction by the operator as featured in Claim 1.

Additionally, the Office Action contends that McQueen teaches selecting a character font by a selecting unit (line 3 from the bottom of page 4 in the Office Action).

However, McQueen is not seen to disclose or suggest selecting a font for generating a reproduced image from an image read by a reading unit, but is merely seen to select a font for reproducing a character code of previously encoded document data.

The character recognizing unit in Miyaza, which merely detects whether or not the character exists in the read image as described above, and merely enlarges or reduces the read image when reproducing the read image. Applying the disclosures of McQueen, which selects a font type in case of reproducing a character code of document data, to Miyaza is based on the premise that the reading unit recognizes a character included in the read image and then outputs the character code. Therefore, there is no suggestion in Miyaza that such a combination with McQueen is permissible. Even if Miyaza and McQueen are combined, which Applicant does not concede is permissible, such a combination still does not feature generating the reproduced image based on the image read by the reading unit wherein the type of font to be used in the reproduced image is set to the type selected by the operator.

Furthermore, the image processing apparatus of Claim 1 features a generating unit that generates the reproduced image by combining the characters having the second character size with a plurality of kinds of character gaps so that the width of the reproduced image corresponds to the width of the image read by said reading unit which is multiplied by the magnification ratio. No such feature is found in either Miyaza or McQueen

In light of the deficiencies of Miyaza and McQueen as discussed above, Applicant submits that amended independent Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Amended independent Claims 8 and 9 are directed to a method and a recording medium readable by a computer , respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 8 and 9 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for at least the same reasons. However, as each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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